



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

June 21, 2021

Samantha Doyle, Administrative Law Judge
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Uplift Movers, LLC*
Commission Staff's Response to Request for Mitigation of Penalties
Dockets TV-200669 and TV-200668 (*Consolidated*)

Dear Judge Doyle:

On August 18, 2020, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) assessed an \$18,500 penalty against Uplift Movers, LLC, (Uplift Movers or Company) in Docket TV-200668 for 226 critical violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-15-555, WAC 480-15-560, and WAC 480-15-570.

On September 9, 2020, the Commission entered Order 01, Consolidating Dockets; Approving Safety Management Plan; Upgrading Safety Rating; Imposing and Suspending Penalties (Order 01) in consolidated Dockets TV-200668 and TV-200669. Order 01, among other things, reduced the penalty from \$18,500 to \$8,050, and suspended a \$5,000 portion of the reduced penalty for a period of two years subject to the condition that the Company not incur any repeat violations upon reinspection.

On May 25, 2021, Commission staff (Staff) completed a follow-up safety investigation of Uplift Movers and discovered one repeat violation of WAC 480-15-555. On June 3, 2021, Staff filed its recommendation that the Commission impose the \$5,000 suspended penalty.

On June 4, 2021, Uplift Movers requested leniency regarding the penalty, which the Commission interpreted as a request for mitigation of the penalty. In the request for mitigation, Catalin Creanga, owner of Uplift Movers, admits the repeat violation, references the progress the Company has made to achieve compliance with motor carrier safety regulations, and asks that the imposition of the \$5,000 suspended penalty be reconsidered.

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While Uplift Movers made significant progress towards compliance with motor carrier safety regulations, the Commission already reduced the penalty and suspended a significant portion of the reduced penalty subject to Uplift Movers not incurring any repeat violations. Because the Company incurred a repeat violation upon reinspection, Staff maintains its recommendation that the Commission impose the \$5,000 suspended penalty.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Hoxit, Compliance Investigator, Transportation Safety, at (360) 867-8305, or by email at Jason.Hoxit@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by Jason
Sharp
Date: 2021.06.21
07:06:24 -07'00'

Jason Sharp
Motor Carrier Safety Supervisor, Transportation Safety